

**LETTER OF INFORMATION FOR AUDIENCE MEMBERS**

**A Study of/about Transforming Stories Driving Change: Audience Members’ Experiences of the Performance-as-Research event**

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**Additional members of the research team are identified below**

**Research Sponsor:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

**Purpose of the Study**

Thank you for your interest in this project. You are being invited to participate in a project that incorporates theatre creation, performance, and research. Our goal is to develop ethical and effective ways to publicly present stories of lived experience by people and communities affected by various societal injustices. To do this we will develop stories that will generate a reflection on what needs to happen for Hamilton to be a place where more people feel they belong and are respected. You are invited to join us in this endeavour.

**What will happen during the study?**

If you agree to be involved in this study, you will participate in a public presentation and discussion of one play that was collectively created by research team members, professional artists, and community members.

As a participant in this research study, your participation will involve: a) watching the play referred to above, b) contributing to a post-performance discussion, and c) contributing anonymously written comments in response to the play.

During the performance we plan to:

Video-record the performance from the back of the room (Note that we will not be video-recording the audience, though it is possible we may inadvertently capture the back of your head);

Make observational notes as to how the audience is responding to the play (Note that we will not be watching for individual responses to the play. We will rather be interested in recording generalized audience responses, for example applause, laughter, etc.).

Seeing as though we are only interested in collecting group data, we will not be collecting any personal or identifiable information from audience members in attendance. As such, we will not be asking for individual consent from audience members for group observation during the performance of the play.

During the post-performance discussion we plan to:

Audio-record audience members’ comments;

Provide audience members with the opportunity to provide anonymously written comments.

Similar to the performance component of the event, we will not be collecting any personal or identifiable information from audience members during the post-performance discussion. However, your consent will be required for audio-recording the discussion after the performance. This will take place in the following way:

* If you decide to speak during the post-performance discussion, this will signify your consent to being recorded;
* If you want to speak but do not wish to be recorded, you may give the research assistant a thumbs-down gesture with your hands, and she/he will turn off the recorder.

**Are there any risks to doing this study?**

The risks related to your participation in this project are minimal.

You may worry that someone else in the audience may misconstrue your responses or that your responses will affect their standing in the community in some way. But, any risks and benefits associated with your participation in this event would be similar to that of any other public meeting that addresses the topics under consideration in the play you are going to watch (tenant rights, homelessness, etc.).

**Are there any benefits to doing this study?**

There are no direct material benefits to participating in this study beyond being a part of a community event that helps to improve public understanding of difficulties and strengths of fellow Hamiltonians.

**Payment or Reimbursement**

You will not be reimbursed for your participation in this research study.

**Who will know what I said or did in the study?**

We will not be collecting any personal or identifiable information during this event. All recording transcripts will be anonymized in the event that your name is recorded accidentally. However, as this you will be participating in a public event, the people who are in attendance (performers, researchers, other audience members) will be aware of what you said or did during the performance, though many of those in attendance will probably not know who you are.

**What if I change my mind about being in the study?**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may withdraw participation at any time during the event by simply leaving the room. However, if a comment is recorded during the post-performance discussion, it will not be possible for us to withdraw your comment from the recording after the fact.

**How do I find out what was learned in this study?**

We expect to have this study completed by approximately March 2021. We expect to begin publishing and presenting from this study in 2018 and continue to publish until about 2025. All publications and presentations will be noted on the project website at [www.transformingstories.mcmaster.ca](http://www.transformingstories.mcmaster.ca). You can also follow the progress of the study through the blog that will appear on that site and we hope you will come out to see future performances of other groups participating in the study.

**Who else is involved in the research team?**

This is a partnership project, meaning that in addition to the three McMaster researchers listed above (Dr. Sinding, Dr. Graham, and Dr. Vosters), this project also involves representatives of community organizations from Hamilton. These include: Mr. Don Jaffray (Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton – djaffray@sprc.hamilton.on.ca), Ms. Katherine Kalinowski (Good Shepherd Centres – kkalinowski@gsch.ca), and Ms. Sarah Glen (Hamilton Community Foundation – s.glen@hamiltoncommunityfoundation.ca). We also have additional members of the McMaster community who are involved in this project, including Dr. Elysée Nouvet (Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact – enouvet@uwo.ca), Ms. Jennie Vengris (School of Social Work – vengris@mcmaster.ca), as well as the following research assistant: Sarah Adjekum adjekusa@mcmaster.ca. NOTE THAT INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS WILL CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT.

**Questions about the Study**

If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact one of the lead researchers, Chris Sinding or Catherine Graham or the project coordinator, Adam Perry at:

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| Chris Sinding: sinding@mcmaster.ca  Catherine Graham: grahamca@mcmaster.ca  Helene Vosters: vostersh@mcmaster.ca |

This study has been reviewed by the McMaster University Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance. If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Secretariat

Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142

C/o Research Office for Administrative Development and Support

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